

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-550V

Filed: June 24, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

PEDRO MORILLO,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Randall G. Knutson, Knutson & Casey Law Firm, Mankato, MN, for petitioner.  
Colleen Clemons Hartley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On April 19, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, et seq.,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) as result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 26, 2015. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On December 26, 2017, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for his GBS injury. On June 19, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$134,583.14, consisting of pain and suffering (\$85,000.00), lost earnings (\$31,524.39);

<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet. In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

and past unreimbursed expenses (\$18,058.75). Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$134,583.14, consisting of pain and suffering (\$85,000.00), lost earnings (\$31,524.39); and past unreimbursed expenses (\$18,058.75), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Pedro Morillo.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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PEDRO MORILLO, )  
Petitioner, ) No. 17-550V  
v. ) Chief Special Master Dorsey  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN ) ECF  
SERVICES, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
)

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On April 19, 2017, Pedro Morillo ("petitioner") filed a petition for vaccine injury compensation alleging that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") as result of a flu vaccine administered on October 26, 2015. On December 20, 2017, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. On December 26, 2017, Chief Special Master Dorsey issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation.

**I.       Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$134,583.14, consisting of pain and suffering (\$85,000.00), lost earnings (\$31,524.39); and past unreimbursed expenses (\$18,058.75), which represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II.      Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner be made through a

lump sum payment of \$134,583.14 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Attorney General

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Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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/s/ Colleen C. Hartley  
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DATED: June 19, 2019

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, respondent reserves the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.